

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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Ampleforth Abbey Trust – Registered Charity no: 1026493

Sixth Sunday of Easter 14th May 2023

(Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 2)



“If you love me, you will keep my commandments”

A Prayer for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.

Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

THIS WEEK

Sat 13 th	10.30am	For vocations	The Dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the King (feast)
	6.00pm	For peace in the world	Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sun 14 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 15 th	No Mass today		Monday of Easter 6
Tue 16 th	9.30am	Margaret Holden	Tuesday of Easter 6
Wed 17 th	9.30am	In thanksgiving for a 65 th wedding anniversary	Wednesday of Easter 6
Thu 18 th	9.30am	For our benefactors	The Ascension of the Lord (Holyday of Obligation)
	6.00pm	Bishop Vincent Malone	
Fri 19 th	9.30am	Stuart James Dolphin	Friday of Easter 6
Sat 20 th	10.30am	For the Pope's intentions	Saturday of Easter 6
	SECOND COLLECTION: WORLD COMMUNICATIONS		Seventh Sunday of Easter
	6.00pm	For the Parish	
Sun 21 st	9.30am	For peace in the world	

CONFESSIONS: FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10.00am OR BY APPOINTMENT

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 13 th		M Russell		P Cook		R Smith	
Sun 14 th		L Rigbye		J Slater		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	J & K Slater	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick		Collection counters	C & K Snape	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 20 th		G Kellett		P Fawcett		P Hothersall	
Sun 21 st		R Conboy		L Rigbye		C Snape	
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	B Gorrell, A Fowler		Collection counters	P & J Kitchen	

Last weekend's attendance: 113

Thank you for last weekend's collection of £409.66 and for April's standing orders of £1,074

Readings Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, 1 Peter 3:15-18, John 14:15-21.

This week's readings all mention the Holy Spirit or Advocate: *they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit...in the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life...I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate...*

The Spirit is a spirit of love and unity: the people of the Samaritan town in our first reading were united in welcoming the message of the Good News of Christ's death and resurrection preached by Philip, along with the miracles. Even a so-called magician named Simon, who had impressed them with his own magic, welcomed the Good News and was baptised along with the others, going round with Philip, astonished by what Philip did in the name of Christ. (Acts 8 vv 9-13)

But there is only one God, one Christ and one Spirit and so the Apostles in Jerusalem, having heard that Samaria had accepted the Word of God, sent two of their most respected members, Peter and John, to them to validate the work of Philip. In so doing, they unite the Samaritans as one in the Holy Spirit with themselves, by the laying-on of hands, thereby showing a unity of faith in the one true God.

In parenthesis: Simon the magician appears to have been excluded, for he offered money to buy some of the same power so that he too could empower with the Holy Spirit anyone he laid hands on. He was severely chastised by Peter for such an affront: to think that he could buy for money something God gives for nothing. To do this became known as the sin of Simony...defined as the trafficking in sacred things.

In the Gospel, Jesus describes the Advocate as the Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him.

Some say that it was easier to believe in the Good News in days past when there was little escape from war,

famine, illness; when roads weren't safe from murderous villainy and the like; indeed when death and the prospect of eternal life freed from suffering, was seen as the only escape from such hardship.

Now, with relative security, comfort, better prospect of health and life expectancy, people want to cling to life, afraid to let go, seeing no further than those things to which they cling... is this the *world* to which Jesus refers and how much are you and I still clinging on to it?

Yet, here we are, gathered in his name to hear his word, to receive his blessings and to receive him in the Eucharist.

Are we deranged, mad poor souls gathered in the name of one we cannot see or point out to others? Or is there an unseen power at work within us; drawing us together in love that the world that Jesus speaks of is too blind to see.

Well, we **are** here and if we are not deceived or mad, then let us rejoice and be glad that the Spirit whom Jesus promised he would ask his Father to send...is indeed among us...thanks be to God.

Ascension Thursday

In the Office of Readings for this Solemnity, St Augustine says *Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him.*

Is it possible for our hearts to ascend to heaven with him?

Yes, and he quotes the following: *If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God...*

He goes on: *Christ is now exalted above the heavens but still suffers on earth all the pain that we the members of his body have to bear.*

How do we know? Is there any scriptural evidence?

Yes, Augustine replies; when Christ called from above *Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?* And when he said *I was hungry and you gave me food.*

St Augustine then asks why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him. For while in heaven he is also with us and we while on earth are with him. *For we cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, in his divinity, but in him we can be there by love.*

He did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he returned to heaven. Augustine continues; the fact that he was in heaven even while he was on earth is born out by his own statement: No one has ever ascended to the Father except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

St Augustine explains that this is all possible because we are part of the Body of Christ who is its head.

He concludes:

Out of compassion for us, he descended from heaven and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace. Thus no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body, as a unity, cannot be separated from the head.

Happy Feast,

With Prayers, Fr Raphael.

Thursday of this week is the Solemnity of the **ASCENSION OF THE LORD – A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION**. As well as the morning Mass, there will be Mass at 6.00pm.

NEXT SUNDAY IS WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY when we are asked to prayer for, and support financially through the **SECOND COLLECTION** if we are able, the work of the various Catholic media services. For more information, go to: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/popes-message-for-world-communications-day-2023/>. The Pope's message can be found in the "Downloads" section of our website.

MAY ROSARY: We will say a decade of the Rosary after weekday Masses throughout May.

BOOKSHOP – Cards and gifts for First Holy Communions are now available.

PLEASE PRAY for David Haydock who has died, for those who are sick or housebound including Bill and Hilda Warbrick and Anne Chadwick, as well as for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 22 is number 20, Jeanette Hindle. **The next block of 10 weeks has now started.** If you haven't already paid for the full year, could you please pass your subs to Lesley or Mick or leave in the Bookshop – thank you!

DURING EASTER we are asked to pray for: New Members of the Church; Human Work; Vocations; Survivors of Abuse; The Right Use of the Media; the Church.

On **Saturday 1st July**, there will be a **FAMILY FUN DAY** in and around the Parish Hall from 2.00 to 5.00pm, organised jointly by the school, church and scout group. Plenty of fun and games, BBQ, bar, refreshments, Shetland pony rides and much more. Free entry! See the poster on the noticeboard for full details.

GRAVEYARD: Please could we avoid planting shrubs or any other plants or placing any items in front of graves which might prohibit the passing of a lawn mower.

TEA & COFFEE are served after Mass on Sunday mornings. Please come along – you'll be very welcome.

If you're the last one out of church after a weekend Mass, could you please check that the lights are turned off and doors closed? Thank you.

ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, Ireland, 26th June. £699 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board, all entertainment and excursions. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr Peyton Centre and National Museum. Single supplement £150. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

THURSDAY STAY AND PLAY! Thursday morning 2-hour Scandi-inspired play sessions for children aged 0-5 in the Parish Hall. Montessori toys, climbing frame, soft play, puzzles, sensory and craft activities, ride-on toys, books, small world, dress up and more. Parachute games, songs/stories at each session led by an EYFS teacher. Juice and freshly-baked shortbread for children included. Refreshments on sale. Six-week block booking: 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th June, 6th and 20th July (NB no session on 13th July). £36 for one child and one adult. Additional siblings £5, babes in arms free, additional adult £1. PAYG spaces £7 subject to availability. Book at www.instagram.com/littlefolk or email littlefolklancashire@outlook.com.

Bidding Prayers for 6th Sunday of Easter -13th/14th May 2023

Priest: Grant, Almighty God, that we may celebrate with heart-felt devotion these days of Easter joy.

Reader: We pray for the Church, for Pope Francis, Bishops and Priests, and for the people of this Parish, that we may all be guided by the Holy Spirit. Lord in your mercy..... (Hear our prayer)

Let us pray for all who have been hurt or abused in body, mind, or spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Lord in your mercy.....

Let us pray for everyone who is sick, bereaved or dealing with loss in our community; for those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May God grant each one of them peace and comfort. Lord in your mercy.....

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for vocations to the Priesthood, that new apostles come forward with the courage to follow you in the Way, the Truth and the Life. Lord in your mercy.....

Let us pray that we may practise in our lives the faith we profess. Lord in your mercy.....

We ask Our Lady to join her prayers to ours as we say – Hail Mary.....

We pause for a moment to present our private intentions to God our Father.

Priest: Father hear these prayers which we place before you through Christ our lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Priest: As we thank God for the gift of his Son in Holy Communion, let us remember those of our Parish who are sick or housebound.

All: May the body and blood of your Son, which we now send to them through our Eucharistic Ministers, bring them consolation and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen